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WEEKLY VIETNAM INDICATORS

Week Ending 18 July 1970

NSA Declassification/Release Instructions on File.

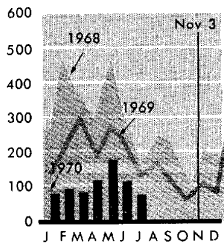
For the President Only

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SOUTH VIETNAM WEEKLY INDICATORS

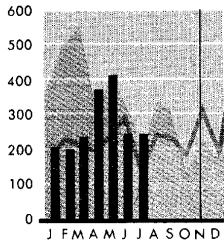
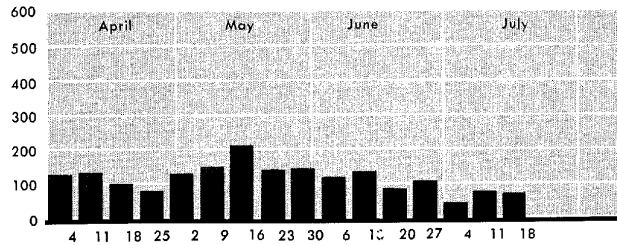
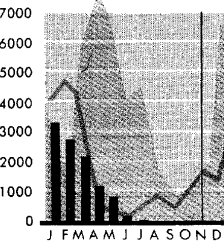
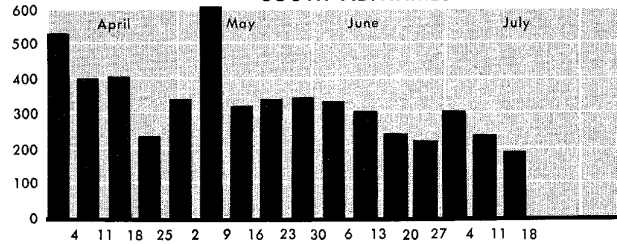
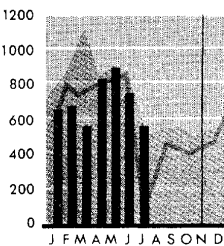
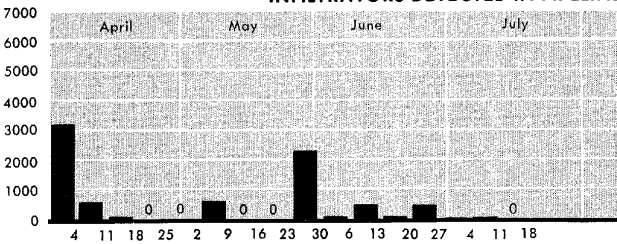
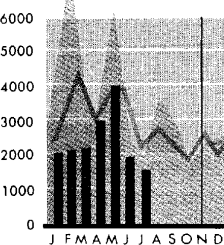
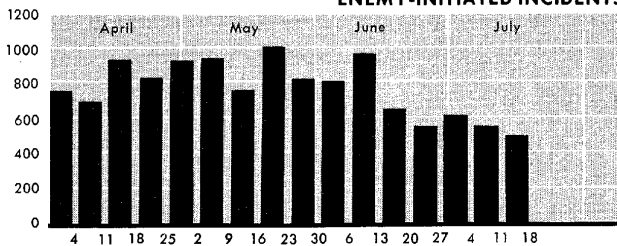
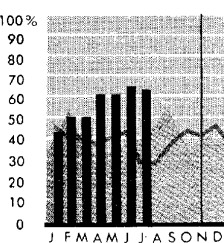
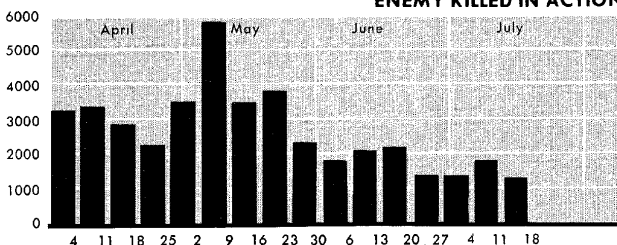
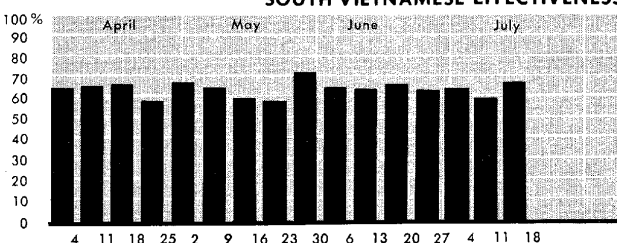
1968-1970

Weekly average for each month



APRIL - JULY 1970

Weekly data as reported

US BATTLE DEATHS decreased to 70 from last week's 72.

SOUTH VIETNAMESE BATTLE DEATHS decreased to 190 from last week's 241. The official total will change as late reports are received and will be lower than figures released to the press by the GVN.

INFILTRATORS DETECTED IN PIPELINE stand at zero for the week. The total number of infiltrators since 23 October 1969 remains at an estimated 60,500 - 62,000

ENEMY-INITIATED INCIDENTS again declined, to 506 from last week's 562

ENEMY KILLED IN ACTION was 1,338, the lowest number since October 1968. This significant drop from last week's 1,831 reflects the low level of ground combat activity, in part a result of the Cambodian operations which disrupted enemy preparations for a summer offensive.

SOUTH VIETNAMESE EFFECTIVENESS as measured by the percentage of enemy killed by RVN forces increased sharply to 67% from last week's 58%.


Statistics for the latest week shown are preliminary

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Enemy Activity

Enemy-initiated activity remained very light during the past week. There was only a minor flurry of incidents on 20 July, the anniversary of the signing of the Geneva Accords, the date on which the Communists had planned to cycle a "high point." The level of enemy activity in recent weeks has been so low that a mere return to the level of earlier this year would constitute a noticeable increase. It is unlikely that any large-scale offensive is imminent; but attempts to disrupt pacification and terrorism will continue. The augmentation of enemy forces in the northernmost province of Quang Tri may portend increased activity there, but the enemy's tactical plans in that area are not yet clear.

Military action in Laos heated up somewhat last week with the enemy capturing a government outpost in northwest Laos and attacking another south of the Plain of Jars. On the Bolovens Plateau in southern Laos, the enemy continues to harass friendly positions with mortar fire. Farther south, concern for the security of Khong Island near the Cambodian border is increasing as enemy forces moved into the area and launched two attacks during the week. American civilian personnel of the Tom Dooley Foundation Hospital have been evacuated, Royal Lao Army reinforcements have been flown into the area, and the situation at present is calm.

Although the overall level of Communist offensive activity in Cambodia appears to be declining, the cities of Siem Reap, Kompong Thom, Kompong Speu, and the Lovek ordnance depot continue to feel the enemy's presence. Moreover, an estimated 1,000 Communist troops reportedly have moved into an area some 20 miles south of Phnom Penh. At Kirirom, government clearing operations have encountered stubborn Communist resistance.

Enemy Infiltration

Personnel infiltration from North Vietnam remains at a virtual standstill, as no new groups were detected during the week. A recently intercepted enemy message, however, forecast the movement of eight special purpose groups, with an average strength of about 75 each, indicating that Hanoi has not completely shut down the personnel pipeline. The total infiltration estimate since 23 October 1969 remains at 60,500 - 62,000.

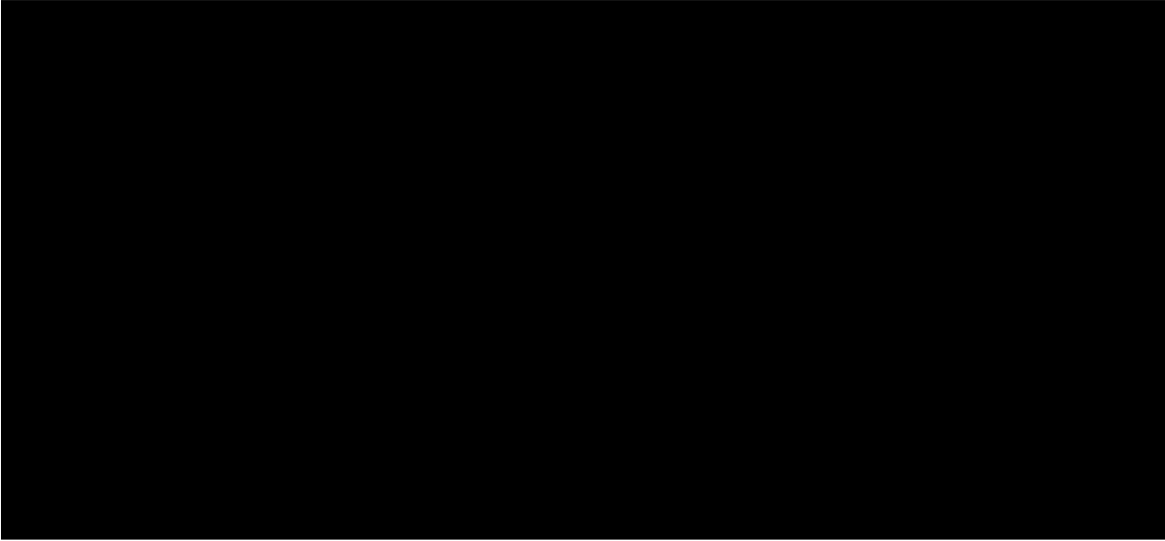
South Vietnam Developments

Results of the Hamlet Evaluation System (HES) as of the end of June show 91.1 percent of the population living in areas rated A, B, or C -- an increase of 1.2 percent for the month. ABC population is thus approximately 16,296,100 of an estimated total population of 17,897,300. The VC population is approximately 1.4 percent of the total or 255,600 people. An analysis of the effect of the Cambodian operations on pacification in the provinces bordering Cambodia shows that during the first month of the effort, six of the eight provinces showed gains.

President Thieu informed Ambassador Bunker on 16 July that he is now willing to have the U.S. propose a conference to discuss the modalities of a cease-fire. Previously, the GVN had felt that a cease-fire would need to be part of a general settlement, and implemented only after all issues had been resolved. However, he feels that Hanoi is no longer able to take advantage of a cease-fire, and that the best course now is to stop the killing. Thieu envisions a supervised cease-fire in place, a ban on terrorism, no infiltration, and a general conference to follow the end of the fighting. Hostilities would continue until the cease-fire terms are agreed on. Thieu anticipates that Hanoi would not accept the proposal, but he thinks that either way the Allies would gain an advantage.

The GVN has achieved unexpectedly high success in an international psychological warfare effort aimed at countering the impact of the visit to India of Madame Nguyen Thi Binh, the Viet Cong Foreign Minister. With the cooperation of anti-Communist Indian groups, two high-level ralliers, VC Colonel Tran Van Duc and an official of the VC-supported Alliance of National Democratic and Peace Forces, Ho Van Buu, arrived in Delhi coincident with Madame Binh's visit. The Indians arranged an airport welcome for the ralliers which received good press coverage.

A press conference on 17 July got front page press coverage because of inept last-minute attempts by the Indian Government to prevent it. A petition by members of the Indian legislature opposing Madame Binh's visit has surfaced in the press and a lawsuit to bar her entry into India, although denied, brought to public attention the challenge to Madame Binh's claim to represent the South Vietnamese people. A rightist demonstration occurred at the airport upon her arrival. Pro-GVN Indians are also trying to arrange for the ralliers to appear at the Indian Press Club on 22 July and at a public meeting on 23 July.



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